

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
35 Belle Mead-Griggstown Road, P.O. Box 130
Belle Mead, N.J. 08502**

Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026

Call to Order – The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at the firehouse at 7:30 p.m. by Commissioner Spohn, following proof of publication in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Annual Meeting Notice was published in the Courier News (official newspaper of the district) and provided to the Montgomery News and Packet Publications, filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the Montgomery Township municipal building, the Board’s website, offices and provided to any person requesting same prior to the meeting.

Roll Call – Upon Roll Call the following commissioners were present: Commissioners Phil Adams, William Hyncik, Ricky Puleio Jr., Michael Parise and William Spohn.

Also present: Rich Kennedy, Bookkeeper Lynn Franchino, Engineer Frank Wendling III and Attorney Eric Perkins.

Certification of FY 2026 Election Results and Budget Referendum

Chairman Spohn reported that 149 votes were cast in favor of the FY 2026 budget and that 48 no votes were cast against the budget. Mr. Puleio received 187 votes and was re-elected to the Board for a three-year term.

Commissioner Parise made a motion to certify the results of the election. Commissioner Hyncik seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

Attorney Eric Perkins administered the oath of office to Mr. Puleio for three-year terms expiring in March 2029.

Election of Board Officers

Commissioner Spohn proposed the following slate of officers for 2026:

William Spohn, Chair
Michael Parise, Vice Chair
William Hyncik, Treasurer
Philip Adams, Secretary
Rick Puleio, EEOC

Commissioner Parise seconded the motion, and the positions were confirmed by a unanimous single vote.

Chairman Spohn made the following appointments:

William Hyncik, CFO
Michael Parise, LOSAP administrator
William Spohn, Emergency Services Representative
Ricky Puleio, EEOC coordinator
Phil Adams, Public Access Compliance Officer
Phil Adams, Public Records Officer/ BOFC Web officer
Michael Parise, Fire Company Liaison
Phil Adams, Fire Prevention Bureau Liaison

Resolution 2026-10 Appointment of Fire District Attorney

Eric M. Perkins, Esq. of Skillman, New Jersey is hereby appointed as BOFC attorney for a term beginning March 10th, 2026 and ending on March 9th, 2027 at an annual contract fee of \$17,900.00 plus expenses, and to prepare Board minutes at a contract fee not to exceed \$2,600.00. This contract is awarded as a professional service under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5(1)(a) and is on file and available for public inspection at the fire district offices.

Resolution 2026-11 Appointment of Fire District Auditors

Solitario & Tierney, CPA's of Spotswood, New Jersey are retained as BOFC Auditors for the fiscal and LOSAP years ended December 31, 2025, and for financial review services, at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.00. This contract is awarded as a professional service under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) and is on file and available for public inspection at the fire district offices.

Resolution 2026-12 Appointment of Fire District Bookkeeper

Lynn Franchino of Neshanic Station, New Jersey, is appointed as BOFC Bookkeeper for a term beginning March 10th, 2026 and ending on March 9th, 2027 at an annual contract fee of \$9,400.00 plus reimbursement for the annual Quickbooks subscription and other expenses. This contract is on file and available for public inspection at the fire district offices

RESOLUTION 2026-13 Appointment of Fire District Insurance Broker

The fire district requires the services of knowledgeable insurance professionals to obtain insurance coverages necessary to support fire district operations and Nottingham Agency of Hamilton Square, New Jersey, a licensed broker, has demonstrated a professional relationship with specialized carriers necessary to

provide the coverages required. Accordingly, Nottingham Agency is appointed broker of record for a term beginning March 10th, 2026 and ending March 9, 2027, to provide insurance services to the fire district relative to all insurance coverages required in the course of fire district business. Compensation under this contract will be based on commission for services. This contract is awarded as an Extraordinary Unspecified Service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a), 40A:11-5(1)(m) and the New Jersey Pay to Play regulations and is on file and available for public inspection at the fire district offices.

Chairman Spohn moved Resolutions 2026-10, 11, 12 and 13. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams. The Board adopted the listed resolutions by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the February 10th 2026 meeting were presented.

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 10th board meeting was made by Commissioner Hyncik; 2nd by Commissioner Puleio. Motion passed without objection.

Public Comment – None

Meeting Updates –

Emergency Services –No meeting last month.

Fire Prevention – No meeting.

Rescue Task Force- No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Monthly Bills/ Financial Statement Review – A copy of the Treasurer's report, attached hereto and incorporated as part of these minutes, was made available to each Commissioner with a listing and description of bills to be paid.

Administration: Elections: \$3,146.40; Bookkeeping \$2,250.00; Office Expense-Other: \$728.00; Professional Services-Legal: \$4,375.00.

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION: \$10,499.40

*Operations: General Operating Expenses: \$1,085.40; Insurance: \$22,803.00; Rental Charges/Apparatus Housing: \$13,619.00; General Operating Expenses/Maintenance and Repairs: \$493.36; Training and Education: \$2,007.24
Utilities: \$3,665.29*

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$44,433.29

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION and OPERATIONS: \$54,932.69

(Additional detail regarding accounts charged and vendors is contained in the Treasurers Report)

RESOLUTION 2026-14 Payment of Bills

Upon certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the FY 2026 budget to pay the bills as presented and having designated the accounts to which each should be charged, authorization is granted to pay the bills as set forth in the Treasurer's report and FY2026 Encumbered Check Detail, allocated to the various administration, operating and capital accounts. Total bills to be paid in the amount of \$54,932.69.

Motion to approve accept the Treasurer's report and approve payment of the bills by Commissioner Parise, 2nd by Commissioner Puleio. Resolution Ayes: Parise, Adams, Puleio and Spohn. Nays: None

Chairman Spohn moved the transfer of \$75,000 from the investment account to the checking account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams and approved by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Hyncik will review the interest being credited for the various BOFC accounts and recommend reallocations if necessary.

OLD BUSINESS

Training Facility: Chairman Spohn made a motion to adjourn the meeting to executive session to discuss contract matters. Commissioner Parise seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The executive session lasted fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of the executive session Commissioner Puleio proposed that the BOFC enter into a 10-year rental agreement with the fire company in the amount of \$300.00 per month to cover the cost of improvements to the training center. The motion was seconded by Chairman Spohn and unanimously approve. Commissioner Puleio will present the proposed least to the fire company.

LOSAP Commissioner Parise reported that listing of payments for 2025 has been posted at the firehouse for the requisite 30-day period. The new payment amount has been released by the State. The new amount, calculated according to the posted list and presented for payment at next month's meeting, will be \$2,208.00 per member.

It was noted that there are a number of non-vested LOSAP members who are no longer active members of the fire company. The monies in the accounts of those

members should be reclaimed by the BOFC. Commissioner Parise will review the list to determine the inactive members and send them letters letting them know that their program participation will end if they do not become active members. Commissioner Parise noted that the amount that may be returned to the BOFC is over \$200,000.

Insurance: Chairman Spohn reported that there was an increase in the property and auto coverage in the amount of \$6,000.00 given the past five-year loss history. The workers compensation premium is not yet known but if it increases the monies appropriated for insurance will likely exceed the budgeted amount. A transfer will be made in December to cover any deficiency.

New Apparatus: No update.

Generator Replacement: No update.

NEW BUSINESS

Brush Truck: Captain Joe Olenick reported on the committee's deliberations. After review of a number of products the recommendation is to accept the quote from Fire and Safety Services for a Skeeter Type 6 brush truck in the amount of \$346,949.52. The approved budget for the project is in the amount of \$392,000.00. It was noted that the contract will contain a cost of materials increase clause of 5% or approximately \$17,350.00. The apparatus will be constructed on a Ford 550 frame and be powered by a gas engine. The purchase would be through the HGAC which has been used for past purchases. The estimated build time is between 22 and 24 months.

Commissioner Hyncik made a motion to authorize the chairman to execute a contract on behalf of the board to complete the purchase. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Kennedy reported that there were 27 calls for service in the month of February. Drills included the monthly meeting truck checks and apparatus refresher sessions.

Engineers Report

Engineer Frank Wendling electronically submitted a written report to the Board.

T45 had a re-gen performed at the firehouse by Engineer Wendling. It is back in service and operating normally.

45-2 had a loose officer side mirror repaired in-house.

Tanker 45 has a bad officer side dump valve. Fire and Safety Services has ordered the necessary repair parts.

Engineer Wendling has obtained quotes for the annual pump testing. He is attempting to obtain PM quotes for the apparatus from the appropriate vendors.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.